



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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MAY 19, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE STUDENTS' ARTWORK RECOGNIZED IN ANTI-GUN CRIME BILLBOARD CONTEST

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, recognized three students as winners of the Project Safe Neighborhoods billboard contest today at the site where one of the student's artwork now is on display at U.S. 71 Highway.

The Project Safe Neighborhoods billboard contest involved students from across the metropolitan area, who submitted artwork focusing on issues related to gun violence in their community.

"Project Safe Neighborhoods focuses on increasing the public's awareness of the harmful effects gun violence can have on a community," Graves said. "This billboard contest is part of that initiative and provided students an opportunity to help us relay that message. Among the billboards that were submitted, many focused on gun safety, unlawful gun possession, youth crime, youth violence and gang involvement."

Three students' artwork was selected to be posted on separate billboards provided by Lamar Advertising, which co-sponsored the contest with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

* **Jonathon Brandon**, a student from University Academy, was a selected winner and his billboard is posted facing south near the intersection of U.S. 71 Highway and 16th Street.

* **Johnathan Croxell**, a student from Northgate Middle School, was a selected winner and his billboard will be located facing north on Interstate 435, one tenth of a mile north of 23rd Street.

* **Anda Udris**, a student from Liberty High School, was a selected winner and her billboard will be posted facing north at Interstate 35, one-third mile north of Front Street.

“These students’ participation in this event is significant because it sends the message that they understand the importance of fighting gun violence in our community,” Graves said. “And while we were limited to selecting three winners for this contest, I would like to recognize all of the students who participated in the event. I applaud all of the students’ effort in that regard.”

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow